

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S) : Steven D. Cech

TITLE : **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
INSPECTING THE STRUCTURAL
INTEGRITY OF VISIBLY CLEAR
OBJECTS**

APPLICATION NO. : 09/980,851

FILED : June 11, 2002

CONFIRMATION NO. : 3678

EXAMINER : Stafira, Michael Patrick

ART UNIT : 2877

LAST OFFICE ACTION : January 27, 2004

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : PSSZ 2 00066
Cleveland, OH 44114
July 26, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicant submits the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicant is aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, only items AM and AN warrant an explanation of relevance. Item AM (DE 32 45 908 A1) relates to an automatic tester for glass bottles that uses lateral through illumination and detects impurities by measuring light intensity with lateral and lower photocells. According to the attached English abstract, bottles are illuminated from the side and light passes through the cylindrical parts to photocells. Light is reflected from the insides of the neck following refraction and passes through the bottom of the bottle to photocells below the bottle. Light intensity differences caused by foreign bodies and fouling are detected and used to produce switching signals to control the routing of bottles to conveyor belts. Item AN (DE 36 11 536 A1) relates to an automatic bottle checking system that has a light source, two linear photo detector arrays, and a CCD camera. According to the attached English abstract, the bottles are conveyed with space between them and are rotated about their longitudinal axis in a selected part of a measuring area. The uniform light source is positioned in the measuring area on one side of the conveyor. To check side wall thickness and condition, a linear light detector array is positioned on the other side of the conveyor, whereby the bottles are scanned by a mirror. Two linear detector arrays are provided and each array scans alternate bottles using a mirror. The two-dimensional array, a further scanning mirror and a chopper are used to monitor bottle geometry.

Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. Any overpayment or deficiency can be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

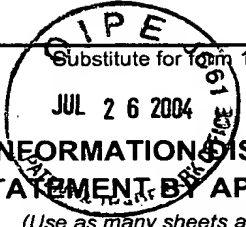
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Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying document(s) are being
☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
☐ transmitted to facsimile number _____ under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 on the date indicated below.
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| <p>Express Mail Label No.: EL 96442579 US</p> | <p>Signature <i>Roseanne Giuliani</i></p> |
| <p>Date <i>July 26, 2004</i></p> | <p>Printed Name Roseanne Giuliani</p> |

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|  <p>Substitute for Form 1449/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S) (Use as many sheets as necessary)</p> | COMPLETE IF KNOWN | |
| | Application Number | 09/980,851 |
| | Filing Date | June 11, 2002 |
| | First Named Inventor | Steven D. Cech |
| | Art Unit | 2877 |
| | Examiner Name | Stafira, Michael Patrick |
| Sheet 1 of 1 | Attorney Docket No. | PSSZ 2 00066 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Document No. Number-Kind Code (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| | AH | US- | | | |
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| | AJ | US- | | | |
| | AK | US- | | | |
| | AL | US- | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number Kind Code (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T |
|--------------------|----------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | AM | DE 32 45 908 A1 (English abstract only) | 14.6.84 | | | |
| | AN | DE 36 11 536 A1 (English abstract only) | 15.10.87 | | | |
| | AO | EP 0 587 037 A2 | 16.03.94 | | | |
| | AP | | | | | |

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume/issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | T |
|--------------------|----------|--|---|
| | AQ | Communication | |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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